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General and complete disarmament: united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

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United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to achieving a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons,

Recalling its resolution 69/52 of 2 December 2014,

Recalling also that 2015 marks the seventieth year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and the end of the Second World War,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1] as the cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of the three pillars of the Treaty, namely, nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, and reaffirming the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law, while convinced that every effort should be made to avoid the use of nuclear weapons,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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Recognizing that the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons should be fully understood by all, and noting in this regard that efforts should be made to increase such understanding,

Reaffirming that the enhancement of international peace and security and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming also that further advancement in nuclear disarmament will contribute to consolidating the international regime for nuclear non-proliferation, which is, inter alia, essential to international peace and security,

Noting that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Stressing the importance of the decisions and the resolution on the Middle East of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[2] and the Final Documents of the 2000[3] and 2010[4] Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Reaffirming, in this context, its support for the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region, and for the resumption of dialogue towards this end involving the States concerned,

Expressing regret over the lack of a consensus outcome at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held from 27 April to 22 May 2015, while stressing the importance of moving forward, paying due regard to the discussions held therein, in the next review cycle of the 2020 Review Conference of the Treaty,

Welcoming the continuing successful implementation of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,

Welcoming also the announcements and recent updates on overall stockpiles of nuclear warheads by France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the update of the Russian Federation on its nuclear arsenal, which further enhance transparency and increase mutual confidence,

Welcoming further the efforts undertaken towards the development of nuclear disarmament verification capabilities that can contribute to the pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons, including the new and continuing initiatives pursued by Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

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[2] See *1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I* (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I) and Corr.2), annex.

[3] *2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I-III (NPT/CONF.2000/28 (Parts I-IV)).

[4] *2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document*, vols. I-III (NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vols. I-III)).

Expressing deep concern regarding the growing dangers posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, inter alia, nuclear weapons, including that caused by proliferation networks,

Recognizing the importance of the objective of nuclear security, along with the shared goals of Member States of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, welcoming the Nuclear Security Summits, in particular the Summit to be held in the United States of America in 2016, and reaffirming the central role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening the nuclear security framework globally and in coordinating international activities in the field of nuclear security,

Condemning in the strongest terms the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, its launches using ballistic missile technology and its continued development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, recalling that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, reiterating the opposition of the international community to its possession of nuclear weapons, and expressing serious concern about its ongoing nuclear activities, including its uranium enrichment and plutonium production programmes,

1. *Renews once again* the determination of all States to take united action towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, with a view to achieving a safer world for all and a peaceful and secure world free of nuclear weapons;

2. *Reaffirms* in this regard the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, leading to nuclear disarmament, to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[1] are committed under article VI thereof;

3. *Emphasizes* that deep concerns about the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons continue to underpin efforts by all States towards a world free of nuclear weapons;

4. *Calls upon* all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to comply with their obligations under all the articles of the Treaty and to implement the steps agreed to in the Final Documents of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference[2] and the 2000[3] and 2010[4] Review Conferences;

5. *Calls upon* all States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions to achieve its universality and, pending their accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms and to take practical steps in support of the Treaty;

6. *Calls upon* all States to take further practical steps and effective measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, based on the principle of undiminished and increased security for all;

7. *Encourages* the Russian Federation and the United States of America to commence negotiations at an early date to achieve greater reductions in their stockpiles of nuclear weapons, with a view to concluding such negotiations as soon as possible;

8. *Calls upon* all nuclear-weapon States to reduce all types of nuclear weapons, strategic and non-strategic, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures, in order to facilitate further reductions of global stockpiles;

9. *Calls upon* all States to apply the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency in relation to the process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation;

10. *Calls upon* States concerned to continue to review their military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, with a view to reducing further the role and significance of nuclear weapons therein;

11. *Urges* all States possessing nuclear weapons to continue to undertake all efforts necessary to comprehensively address the risks of unintended nuclear detonations;

12. *Encourages* the nuclear-weapon States to continue to convene regular meetings, with a view to facilitating nuclear disarmament actions, to build upon and expand their efforts to enhance transparency and to increase mutual confidence, including by providing more frequent and further detailed reporting on nuclear weapons and delivery systems dismantled and reduced as part of nuclear disarmament efforts throughout the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons towards the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty;

13. *Encourages* all States concerned to establish further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, in accordance with the 1999 guidelines of the Disarmament Commission[5] and to ratify the nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties and their relevant protocols, which include, inter alia, legally binding assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

14. *Urges* all States, in particular the eight remaining States listed in annex 2 to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[6] to take individual initiatives to sign and ratify that Treaty without further delay and without waiting for any other State to do so, bearing in mind that 2016 is the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, and to maintain all existing moratoriums on nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

15. *Also urges* all States concerned to immediately commence negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and its early conclusion on the basis of document CD/1299 of 24 March 1995 and the mandate contained therein, welcoming the submission of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts[7] requested in paragraph 3 of resolution 67/53 of 3 December 2012, and to declare and maintain moratoriums on the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices pending the entry into force of the treaty;

16. *Encourages* States to engage in appropriate multilateral forums to further explore effective measures necessary for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons;

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[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 42* (A/54/42).

[6] See resolution 50/245 and A/50/1027.

[7] A/70/81.

17. *Strongly urges* the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to refrain from conducting further nuclear tests, to renounce its policy of building its nuclear forces, which undermines the global non-proliferation regime, to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and to return, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, and urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cease all ongoing nuclear activities immediately, to fully comply with its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and to take concrete steps to honour its relevant commitments under the joint statement of the Six-Party Talks of 19 September 2005;

18. *Calls upon* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery and to fully respect and comply with obligations undertaken to forswear nuclear weapons;

19. *Stresses* the fundamental role of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and the importance of the universalization of the comprehensive safeguards agreements, and, while noting that it is the sovereign decision of any State to conclude an additional protocol, strongly encourages all States that have not done so to conclude and bring into force as soon as possible the Model Additional Protocol to the Agreement(s) between States and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency on 15 May 1997;

20. *Calls upon* all States to fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 1540 (2004) of 28 April 2004;

21. *Encourages* every effort to secure all vulnerable nuclear and radiological material in order to, inter alia, prevent nuclear terrorism, and calls upon all States to work cooperatively as an international community to advance nuclear security, while requesting and providing assistance, including in the field of capacity-building, as necessary;

22. *Encourages* all States to implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education,[8] in support of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons;

23. *Encourages* every effort to raise awareness of the humanitarian impact of the use of nuclear weapons, including through, among others, visits by leaders, youth and others, to the cities devastated by the use of nuclear weapons, and testimonies of the atomic bomb survivors, the hibakusha;

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament", a sub-item entitled "United action with renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

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[8] A/57/124.